

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-60. (Cancelled)

61. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 73, wherein the mobile electronic communication device is configured to receive messages of two or more types, wherein the processor unit is configured to cause the light unit to manifest a further appearance of outputting the light with modulation that depends on the received message's type.

62. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 73, wherein each virtual key manifesting the appearance of being illuminated is associated with a contact of said contact list, and each message is received from the associated contact of said contact list.

63. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 73, wherein the processor unit is further configured to operate the first and the second virtual keys in an alternate mode to

initiate a message operation addressed to the first contact in response to the selection, by the user, of the first virtual key, and

initiate a message operation addressed to the second contact in response to the selection, by the user, of the second virtual key.

64. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 73, wherein the processor unit is configured to cause the virtual key to manifest a further appearance of outputting of light with modulation that depends on an age of a message received by the mobile electronic communication device.

65. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 64, wherein the manifested modulated light has a manifested color that depends on the age of a received message.

66. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 64, wherein the manifested modulated light has a manifested blinking rate that indicates a number of unread messages received from a contact.

67. (Original) The mobile electronic communications device in claim 64, wherein the message is a most recent message received from a contact.

68. (Original) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 67, wherein the message is an unread message received from the contact.

69. (Original) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 64, wherein the relative age is indicated using a plurality of predetermined age categories.

70. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 69, wherein each age category of the plurality of age categories is represented by a predetermined color of light manifested by the virtual light unit.

71. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 69, wherein each age category of the plurality of age categories is represented by a predetermined number of light flashes within a cycle manifested by the virtual key.

72. (Original) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 61, wherein the message is a SMS message.

73. (Previously Presented) A mobile electronic communications device comprising:

a transceiver;

a touch-screen display; and

a processor unit coupled to the transceiver and touch-screen display, wherein the processor unit is configured to

cause a light unit to light a first virtual key selected from a plurality of virtual keys of the touch-screen display to indicate receipt of a message from a first contact of a contact list stored on the mobile electronic communications device, the first contact being the only contact to be associated with said first virtual key, wherein the lighted first virtual key manifests an appearance of being illuminated,

cause a light unit to light a second virtual key selected from a plurality of virtual keys of the touch-screen display to indicate receipt of a message from a second contact of said contact list, the second contact being the only contact to be associated with said second virtual key, wherein the lighted second virtual key manifests an appearance of being illuminated, and

cause the touch-screen display to display information associated with one or more messages received from the first contact in response to the selection, by a user, of the first virtual key, and to display information associated with one or more messages received from the second contact in response to the selection, by the user, of the second virtual key.

74.-79. (Canceled)

80. (Previously Presented) A mobile electronic communications device comprising:

a transceiver;

a touch-screen display; and

a processor unit coupled to the transceiver and touch-screen display, wherein the processor unit is configured to

cause a light unit to light one of at least four virtual keys of the touch-screen display to indicate receipt of messages from one of at least four contacts of a contact list, the contact list being stored on the mobile electronic communications device and each of the at least four contacts being associated with one of the at least four virtual keys of the touch-screen display, a first of said at least four contacts being the only contact associated with a first virtual key, a second of said at least four contacts being the only contact associated with a second virtual key, a third of said at least four contacts being the only contact associated with a third virtual key and a fourth of said at least four contacts being the only contact associated with a fourth virtual key, and wherein the lighted virtual keys manifest an appearance of being illuminated; and

cause the touch-screen display to display information associated with a message from the first of said at least four contacts in response to the selection, by a user, of the first virtual key, display information associated with a message from the second of said at least four contacts in response to the selection, by a user, of the second virtual key, display information associated with a message from the third of said at least four contacts in response to the selection, by a user, of the third virtual key, and display information associated with a message from the fourth of said at least four contacts in response to the selection, by a user, of the fourth virtual key.

81. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 80, wherein the mobile electronic communication device is configured to receive messages of two or more types, wherein the processor unit is configured to cause the light unit to manifest

a further appearance of outputting the light with modulation that depends on the received message's type.

82. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 80, wherein the processor unit is further configured to operate at least the first, second, third and fourth virtual keys in an alternate mode to initiate a message operation addressed to a selected one of said at least four contacts in response to the selection, by the user, of the virtual key associated with the selected one.

83. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 80, wherein the processor unit is configured to cause virtual keys to manifest a further appearance of outputting of light with modulation that depends on an age of a message received by the mobile electronic communication device.

84. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 83, wherein the manifested modulated light has a manifested color that depends on the age of a received message.

85. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 83, wherein the manifested modulated light has a manifested blinking rate that indicates a number of unread messages received from a contact.

86. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device in claim 83, wherein the message is a most recent message received from a contact.

87. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 83, wherein the message is an unread message received from the contact.

88. (Previously Presented) The mobile electronic communications device of claim 85, wherein the relative age is indicated using a plurality of predetermined age categories.

89. (Currently Amended) The mobile electronic communications device of claim [[89]]88, wherein each predetermined age category of the plurality of predetermined age

categories is represented by a predetermined color of light manifested by the virtual light unit.

90. (Currently Amended) The mobile electronic communications device of claim [[90]]⁸⁸, wherein each predetermined age category of the plurality of predetermined age categories is represented by a predetermined number of light flashes within a cycle manifested by the virtual key.